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SOUTH WESTMORLAND  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1945

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*Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Printers, Kendal.*

COMBINED DISTRICTS OF WESTMORLAND.  
-----

- HEALTH DEPARTMENT -

With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health.

17. Lowther Street,  
Kendal.

SOUTH WESTMORLAND  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Printers, Kendal.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of  
South Westmorland.*

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District during the year 1945. The Report follows the lines of those presented during the past few years.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors has been most efficient, and though often entailing overtime, has been cheerfully carried out and I would thank them for their valuable help.

I am indebted to the help I have received from the School Medical Officers of the County in the carrying out of Immunisation against Diphtheria, and tend to them my thanks.

The Medical Profession has given me all the assistance required and so assured harmonious working between the departments of Private and Public Medicine; for this I am most grateful.

As this will probably be the last occasion on which I shall make an Annual Report to you, I wish to acknowledge the unfailing help I have received from your Officials and for the constant courtesy given to me by your Council during the more than 31 years of my happy service.

Should you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

2nd July, 1946.

*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Year ending December 31st, 1945.*

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Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151,007
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,350

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	... 223	115	108	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popu- lation, 14.9.
Illegitimate	... 22	9	13	
Birth Rate: England and Wales	...			16.1.
Still Births	... 11	6	5	} Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 0.67.
Still Birth Rate: England and Wales	...			0.46.

Deaths	... 210	116	94	} Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popu- lation, 12.8.
Death Rate: England and Wales	...			11.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis ... Nil.

Other Puerperal Causes ... Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate: England and Wales 1.79

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 45

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 44

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 45

Infantile Death Rate: England and Wales ... 46

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 27

„ Measles (all ages) ... Nil

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... Nil

The largest number of deaths from any one cause were:—

Heart Disease ... 71

Intra-cranial vascular lesions ... 31

Cancer ... 27

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## WATER.

*Number of houses in relation to Piped Water Supply:—*

Supply laid on	... ..	3185
No. of houses within 100 yards of Main	... ..	133
„ „ beyond reasonable distance of Main	... ..	402
„ „ with no piped supply under pressure	... ..	1106

The completion of the Rural Housing Survey will enable further information to be given in greater detail.

*Quality of Supplies.*

Samples submitted for examination from the Council's main supplies at Lupton, Kirkby Lonsdale and Staveley were found to be satisfactory but smaller supplies occasionally varied.

*Private Supplies.*

A considerable number of the private supplies in the Area are of very doubtful quality; of nine samples from these sources taken during the year only three were reported as being satisfactory. Six of the unsatisfactory samples were from the same supply, taken at different points, and four other samples were obtained in an effort to find a satisfactory supply to premises at present without such a supply.

*Extension of Public Supplies.*

The extension of the supply to the Parish of Stainton was completed during the year and extension also of the Arnside Main to Grange View.

## HOUSING.

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District is 4,826.

*Number of New Houses Erected.*

Two new houses at Garnett Bridge were completed during the year for the Manchester Corporation Water Department.

Eleven other houses (two at Crosthwaite and nine at Preston Richard) were in course of construction at the end of the year.

*Licences under Defence Regulations 68A.A.*

Licences were granted under the above regulations for the temporary occupation of the undermentioned four dwellinghouses which are subject to Demolition Orders: —

- (1) Barley Bridge Cottage, Staveley.
- (2) 3, Church Bank Cottages, Burton.
- (3) 4, „ „ „ „
- (4) 44, Park Road, Milnthorpe.

*Requisitioning of Unoccupied Houses under Defence Regulation 51.*

The undermentioned two houses were requisitioned under the above regulation for the purpose of housing families inadequately housed:—

Green Cross Cottage, Burton.

Gatefoot Cottage, Staveley.

*Post-War Planning.*

During the year the Council appointed Mr. E. Middleton, A.R.I.B.A., of Lancaster, as Architect for their Post-War Housing Schemes.

By the end of the year lay-outs had been submitted and approved for a number of sites, and it was anticipated that tenders would be invited for the erection of houses on at least four of the sites early in 1946.

*Action under the Housing Acts.*

Preliminary Notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of 83 houses which were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation and 38 houses were rendered fit. The comparatively large number of outstanding cases is due to the present difficulty of getting work carried out.

*Rural Housing Survey.*

Good progress has been made in this matter. The Survey was commenced in February, and at the end of the year inspections had been completed and detailed reports presented in respect of 30 of the 48 parishes within the Rural Area, the classification being as follows:—

Type of House.	CLASSIFICATION.					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Houses of a rateable value of £22 or under—excluding farms	391	67	956	225	222	1861
2. Houses of a rateable value of over £22—excluding farms ..	386	9	56	1	—	452
3. Farm Houses .. .. .	17	44	362	98	22	543
4. Total—All Houses .. ..	794	120	1374	324	244	2856



*Summary of Inspections.*

Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	5111
„	Informal Notices—Public Health and Housing Acts					
	outstanding at commencement					
	of year	...	...	...	...	48
„	„	„	Public Health and Housing Acts			
	served during year	...	...	...	...	271
„	„	„	Public Health and Housing Acts			
	complied with during the year					243
„	„	„	Public Health and Housing Acts			
	outstanding at the end of year					76
„	Statutory Notices—Public Health and Housing					
	Acts served during the year					2
„	„	„	Public Health and Housing			
	Acts work carried out in					
	default	...	...	...	...	2
„	Informal Notices—Factory Act served during					
	year	...	...	...	...	4
„	„	„	Factory Act complied with	...		4
„	„	„	Shops' Act served during year			1
„	„	„	„	outstanding at end		
				of year	...	1
„	complaints received and investigated during year					77

*Infestation by Bed Bugs.*

No infestations by bed bugs were discovered during the year.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The only extension to the Council's sewers during the year was at North Road, Holme, but seven privy middens, eight privy closets and six pail closets were abolished and fresh water closets provided in lieu thereof.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

There are no changes to record in this service during the year.

32 ashpits were abolished and replaced by dustbins and 112 defective dustbins were renewed.



*Salvage of Waste Materials.*

The undermentioned waste materials were collected and disposed of:—

<i>Materials.</i>			Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	29	7	3	—	187	6	11
Rags	...	...	—	13	—	27	8	10	3
Woollens	...	...	—	—	2	23	1	19	6
Bones	...	...	4	12	2	—	19	1	1½
Carpets and Sacking	...	...	—	3	1	24	0	13	11½
Totals	...	...	34	17	2	18	£217	11	9

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK.

Inspections of farm premises were made during the year in the undermentioned parishes:—

<i>Parish.</i>						<i>No. of Farms.</i>
Lambrigg	...	...	...	...	...	11
Over Staveley	...	...	...	...	...	10
Scalthwaiterigg	...	...	...	...	...	5
Arnside	...	...	...	...	...	5
Barbon	...	...	...	...	...	10
Docker	...	...	...	...	...	10
Hincaster	...	...	...	...	...	6
Crook	...	...	...	...	...	27
Longsleddale	...	...	...	...	...	8
Holme	...	...	...	...	...	9
Witherslack	...	...	...	...	...	23
Meathop	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	9
						139

Notices under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, were served on the owners and occupiers of 131 farms where conditions were found to be unsatisfactory, and of these alterations and improvements have been carried out at 25 farms.

*Milk Sampling.*

234 samples of milk were obtained and submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Test and for the presence of B. Coli and 42 samples for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, with the following results:—

Satisfactory in Methylene Blue and B. Coli tests	...	...	60—25.64%
„ „ only	...	...	35—14.95%
„ B. Coli test only	...	...	45—19.23%
Unsatisfactory in Methylene Blue and B. Coli	...	...	94—40.17%

Tubercle Bacilli were not found in any sample.

Seven samples of Pasteurised milk were obtained from the Barbon Creamery, all of which satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

*MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.*

Under the Regional Slaughtering Scheme supplies continue to be obtained through the Kendal Borough Abattoir, except cases of emergency slaughter and pigs.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human food and condemned during the year:—

1 pig carcase and offal	...	...	...	320 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	23 „
Bacon	...	...	...	14 „
Toffee	...	...	...	7 „

*Tinned Foods.*

Irish Stew	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Army Rations	...	...	...	9 „
Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	10 „
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	7 „
Mackerel	...	...	...	11 „
Pilchards	...	...	...	6 „
Salmon	...	...	...	1½ „
Greyfish	...	...	...	½ „
Milk	...	...	...	237 „
Beans and Pork	...	...	...	8 „
Ulster Broth	...	...	...	1½ „
Drisaucce	...	...	...	40 tins

## ADULTERATION, ETC., AND CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington.

### HOSTELS AND EVACUATION.

The number of official evacuees remaining in the District at the end of the year comprised two mothers and 14 children. Seven of the children were accommodated at Hincaster Hostel.

Other Hostels were for Land Army at Milnthorpe, for expectant mothers at Trerose, Arnside, and a Maternity Home at Brettargh Holt under the Convent of the Sacred Heart.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Disease has been light, viz.:—20 cases of Scarlet Fever, five of Diphtheria, six of Erysipelas, two of Cerebro-spinal Fever, one each of Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Of the Diphtheria patients, two had been immunised, but in one case this had been done some years ago. The two cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever occurred in two brothers, one of which infected the other; the elder brother was a very severe case and was admitted into hospital in a moribund condition: he was treated with Penicillin with almost magical results, but unfortunately towards the end of his convalescence began to develop deafness which in the usual way increased till he had no hearing left. He has been transferred to a Deaf and Dumb School and is proving a most capable scholar. His brother's case was of a mild character.

Measles which had been prevalent in the latter part of the previous year continued to occur during the early part of the year, and 77 cases were notified; this is a disease which cannot be controlled like many infectious diseases as the period of greatest infection occurs before the appearance of the eruption whilst the patient is apparently only suffering from a "cold" and is often mixing with others in the usual way: hence the widespread epidemics which are present every three or four years.

There were no deaths from any infectious disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever ..	20	—	1	—	2	3	8	3	3	—	—	—	—	16	—
Diphtheria ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	5	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	77	—	1	3	4	7	36	10	10	3	1	2	—	—	—
Total ..	113	1	2	3	6	11	48	13	15	6	1	6	1	23	—

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria has been continued; 189 children under five years of age and 451 of school age have been immunised during the year.

Modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is still lacking.

The School Medical Officers state that a high standard of Health, Nutrition and Cleanliness has been maintained throughout the year amongst the school children.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
25	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	9	5	3	3	3	—	1	1

The incidence of this disease was about the same as in the previous year. There were 14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and of these eight had acquired the infection before coming to reside in the Area.

Of the Non-Pulmonary cases there was one of the Meninges which died and five of Glandular infections, two of which had contracted the disease elsewhere.







